



# 2017 PROFILE

# colorado

# county

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prepared by the Houston-Galveston Area Council



# preface

In 2013, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) developed *Our Great Region 2040*, a regional plan for sustainable development. The plan lays out a long-range vision to ensure that the 13-county region is one of the world's greatest places to live, work, and succeed by 2040.

The 2017 profiles for all 13 counties in the region provide a demographic snapshot and build a baseline understanding from which local communities and H-GAC can gauge how the region has advanced the tenets of the *Our Great Region 2040* plan.

The contents of this report have been gathered from a variety of sources referenced on the last two pages. All maps were produced by H-GAC.

To read the *Our Great Region 2040* plan and all 13 county profiles, visit [ourregion.org/county-profiles.html](http://ourregion.org/county-profiles.html) or [h-gac.com/go/apps](http://h-gac.com/go/apps).



# big ideas

Strategies in the *Our Great Region 2040* plan are grouped into Big Ideas for six different topics highlighting areas of opportunity within the region. The Big Ideas serve as high-level guides when considering new projects or policies. This 2017 county profile includes a range of demographic data points that correspond with one or multiple Big Ideas.



## **Economic Development**

Strengthening our economic competitiveness through an educated and skilled workforce



## **Housing**

Providing balanced housing choices near jobs, services, and transportation options



## **Environment**

Securing a clean and ample water supply



## **Resiliency**

Increasing our resiliency to disaster and a changing environment



## **Healthy Communities**

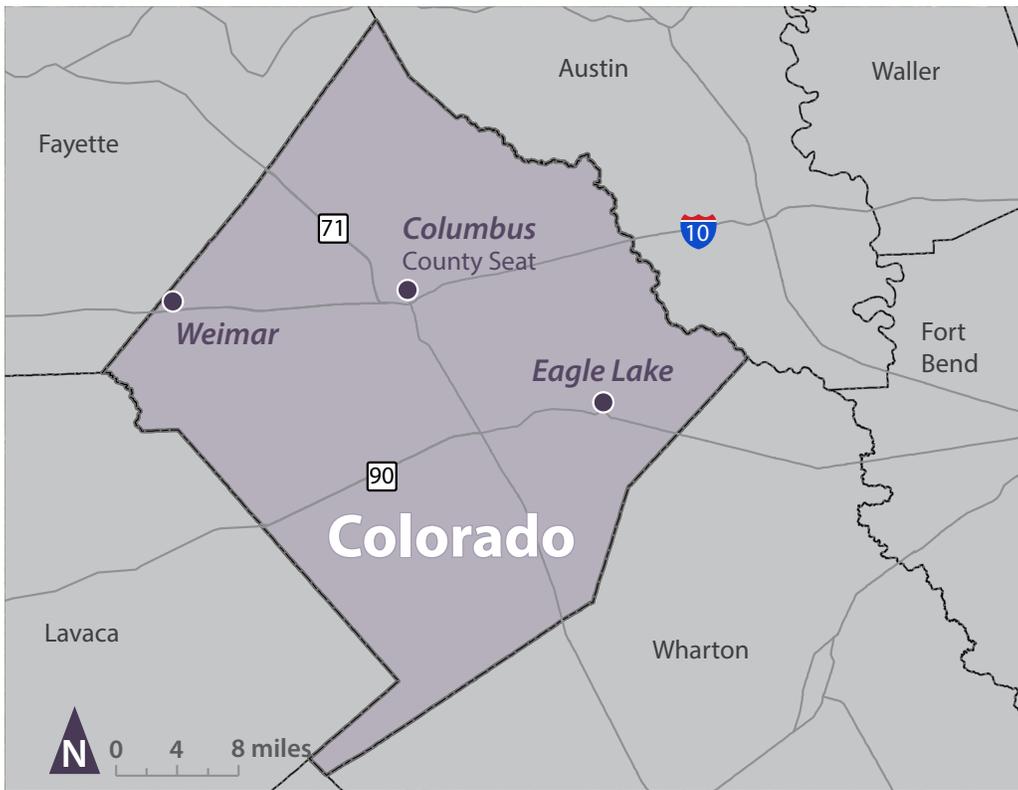
Cultivating places where people can lead active, healthy lives



## **Transportation**

Achieving a world-class transportation network

# OVERVIEW



## Colorado County Boundaries

- Colorado County
- Other counties
- Top 3 cities
- Major roads

County Seat: Columbus  
Largest City: Columbus



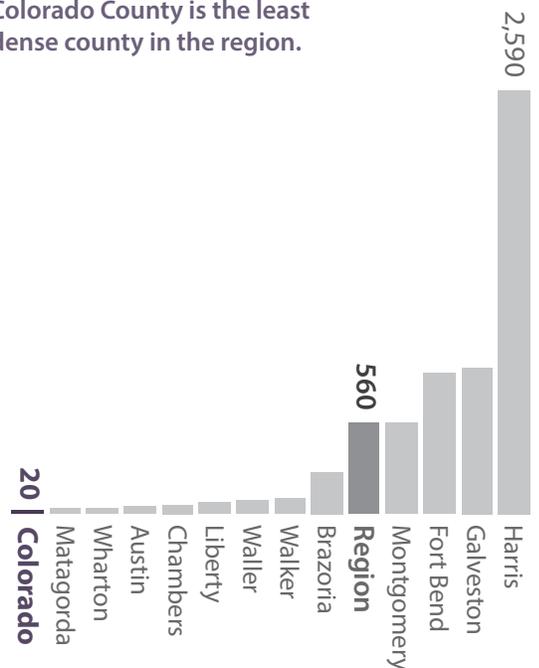
## Population Growth Forecast

Colorado County grew by 11% from 1980 to 2015 and is expected to reach 27,000 residents by 2040.



## Residents Per Square Mile

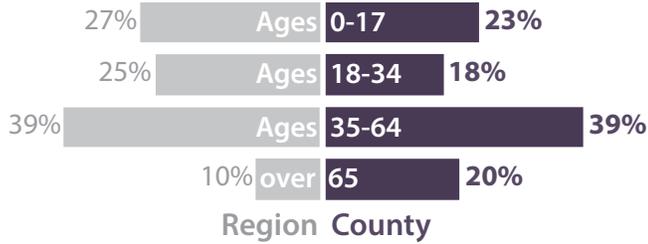
Colorado County is the least dense county in the region.





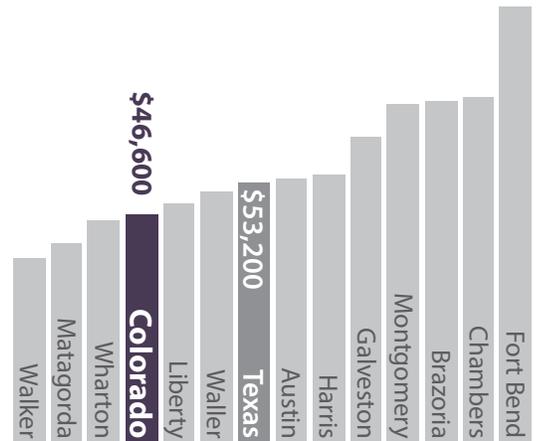
## Age

Colorado County has an older population than the region as a whole.



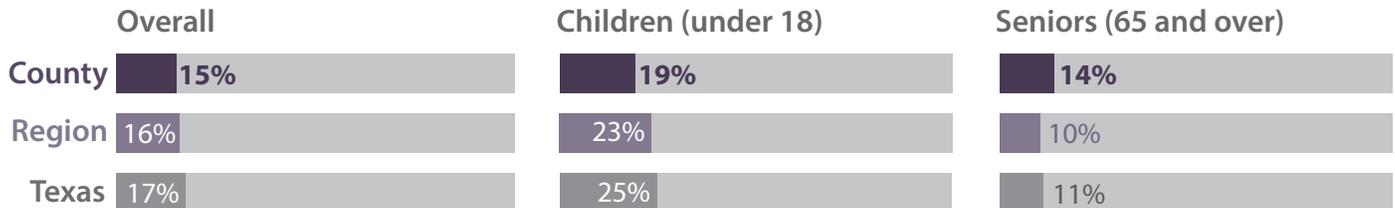
## Median Household Income

Colorado County has a lower median household income than the region as a whole.



## Poverty Rate

Colorado County has a lower rate of poverty than the region, except for seniors.



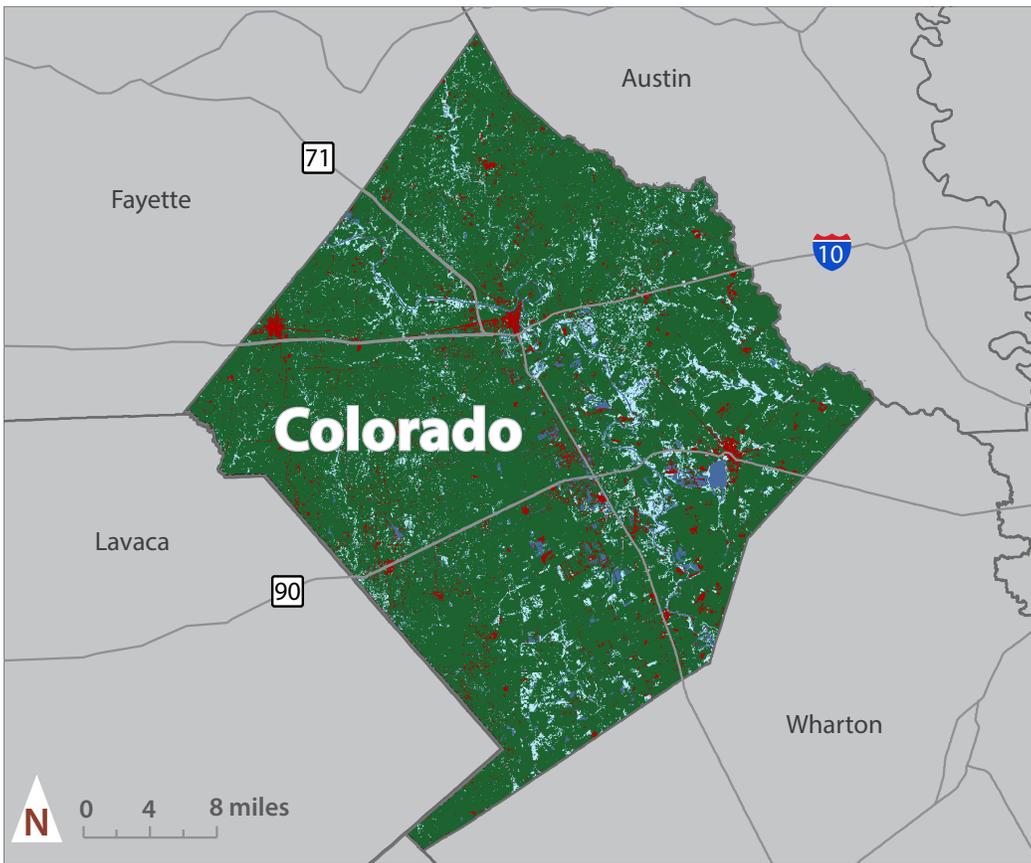
## Race and Ethnicity

Colorado County is less racially diverse than the region and the state.



\*As defined by the Office of Management and Budget as a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race.

# HOUSING & LAND USE

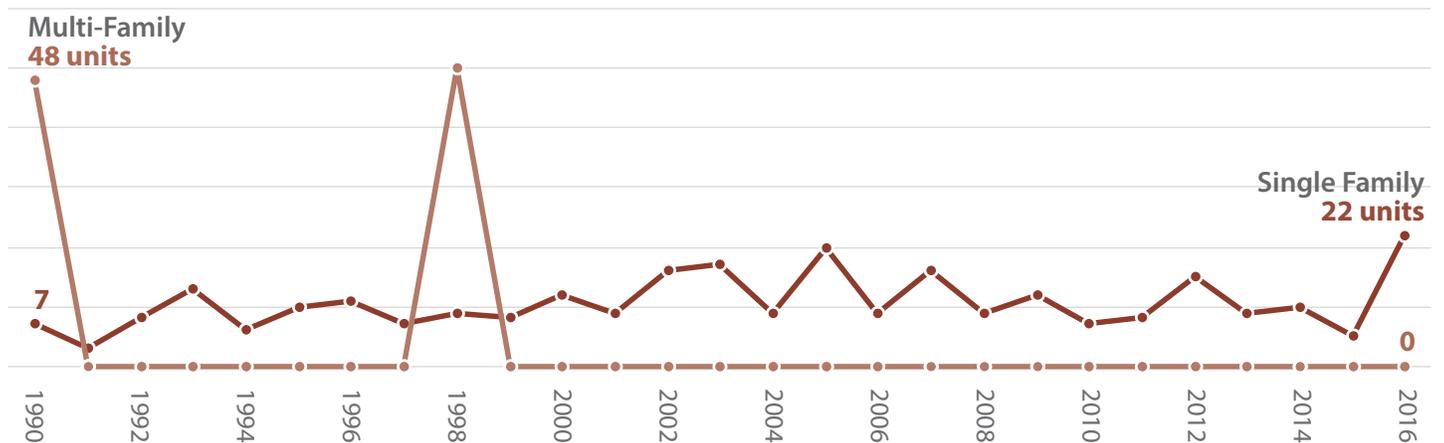


## Colorado County Land Use

- Other counties
- 1% Open water
- 4% Developed Land
- 7% Wetlands
- 88% Forest, shrubs, pasture, grasslands, barren lands, and cultivated crops

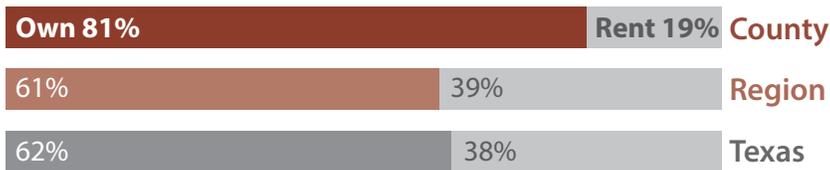
## Building Permits Issued

Single-family construction remains intermittent, while multi-family development permits have not been issued since the late 1990s.



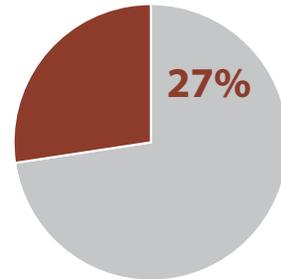
## Housing Tenure

Colorado County has a far higher rate of homeownership than the region or the state.



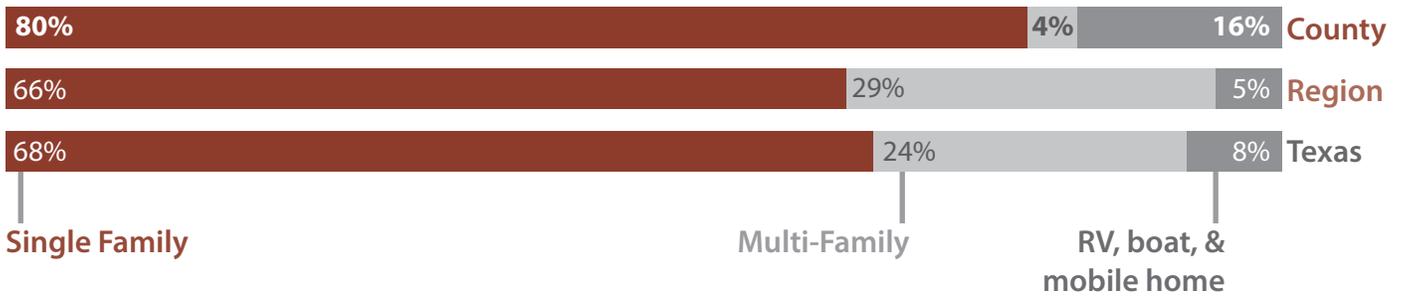
## Vacant Housing Units

Over one-quarter of Colorado County's housing units are vacant.



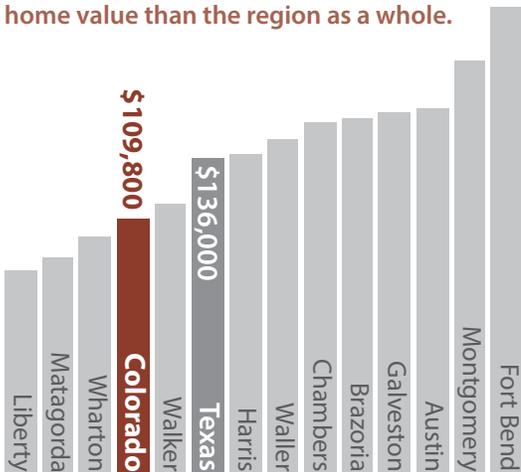
## Housing Type

Colorado County has a higher rate of single family homes, RV, boat and mobile homes than the region and state.



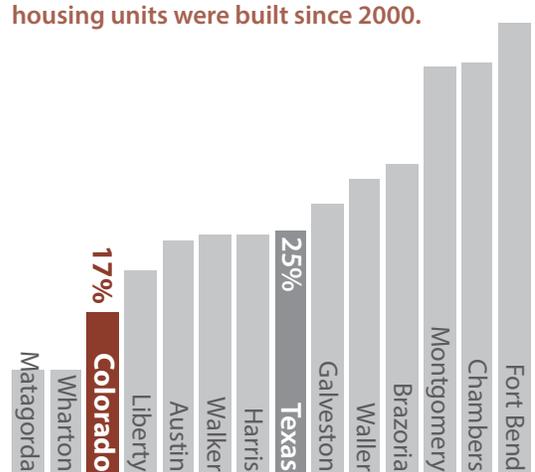
## Median Home Value

Colorado County has a lower median home value than the region as a whole.



## Housing Units Built Since 2000

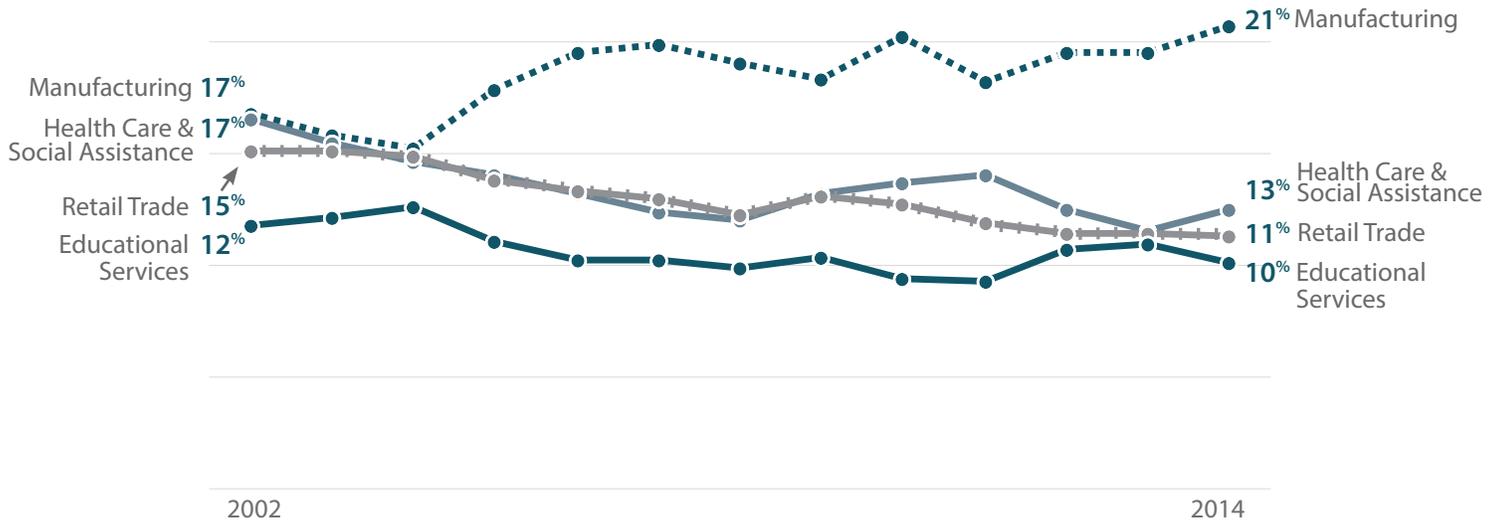
Fewer than 20% of Colorado County's housing units were built since 2000.



# ECONOMY & WORKFORCE

## Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs

Employment in the Manufacturing industry in Colorado County has increased as a portion of the county's workforce between 2002 and 2014 while other top industries have declined in their portion of the workforce.



## Major Employers in Colorado County

Colorado County  
 Colorado-Fayette Medical Center  
 Columbus Community Hospital  
 Columbus ISD  
 Drymalla Construction

Hanover Compression, LP  
 Rice CISD  
 River Oaks Health Care Center  
 Spindler Concrete Products  
 Utex Industries, Inc.

\*This reflects the most up-to-date publicly available data and may not represent the current mix of major employers in the county.

## Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)

Over 20% of Colorado County's working-age teens are not in school, but most of those teens are employed.



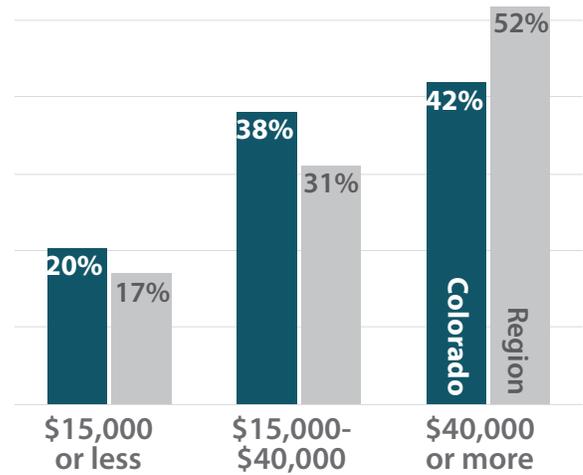
## Unemployment Rate

Colorado County's unemployment remained lower than the national average between 2006 and 2016.



## Earnings of Residents

Around 40% of Colorado County residents earn over \$40,000 a year, a lower percentage than the region.



## Workers' Job & Home Destinations

Only 30% of Colorado County residents work in the county, and only 45% of the workers in the county live there.

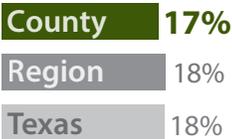


# EDUCATION

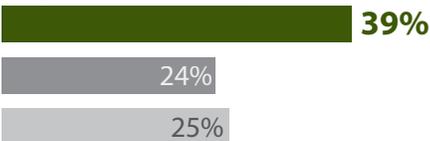
## Educational Attainment

A lower percentage of Colorado County residents have obtained education after high school than the region and state.

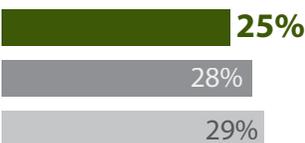
### Less than High School



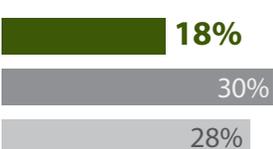
### High School or Equivalent



### Some College or Associate's



### Bachelor's Degree or More

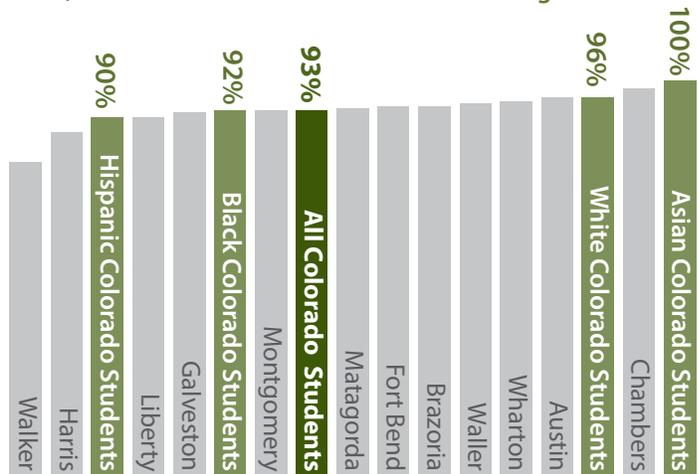


## Local Schools

- Public Secondary Schools
  - Columbus ISD
  - Hallettsville ISD
  - Rice CISD
  - Weimar ISD
- Post-Secondary Schools
  - None

## Class of 2015 Graduation Rate

Around 93% of Colorado County students graduated in 2015, a rate lower than most counties in the region.



## Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

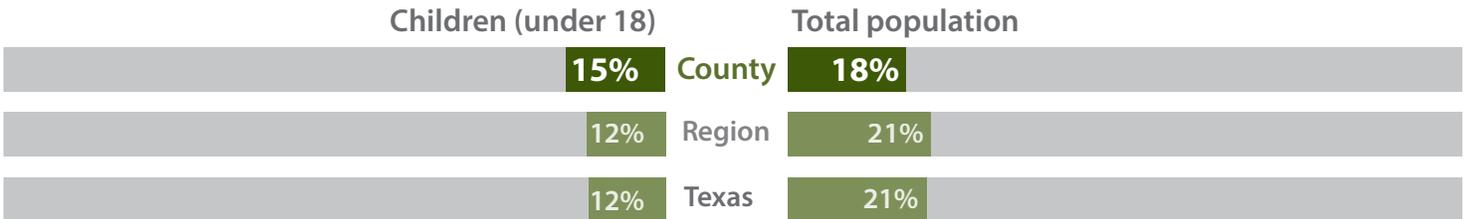
A Colorado County resident with a graduate or professional degree makes, on average, \$32,300 more than a resident with less than a high school education annually.



# HEALTH

## Population without Health Insurance

A lower percentage of Colorado County residents, but a higher percentage of children lack health insurance than the region or state.



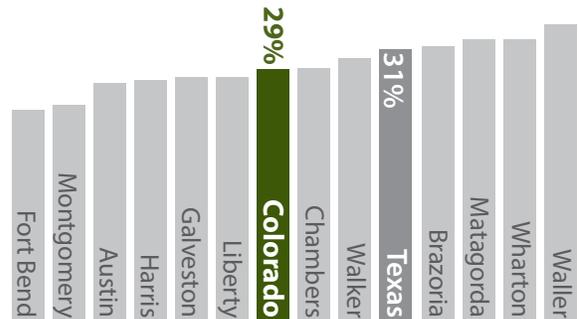
## Top Causes of Death, 2013

Per 100,000 Colorado County residents

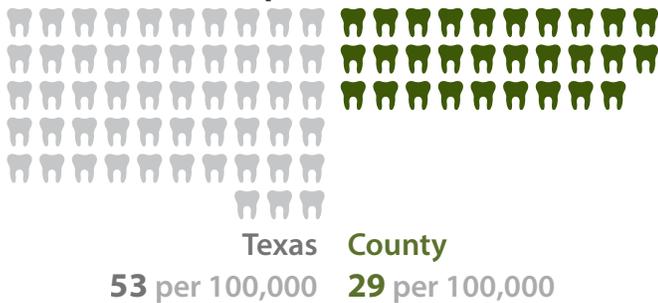
- 197 Heart disease
- 192 Cancer (all types)

## Adult Obesity Rate

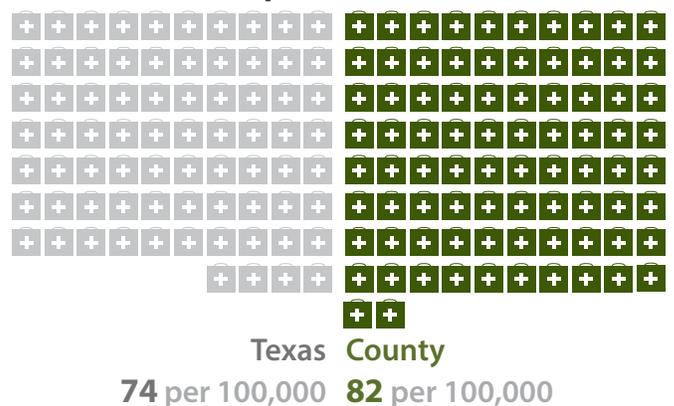
Colorado County has a slightly lower obesity rate than the state.

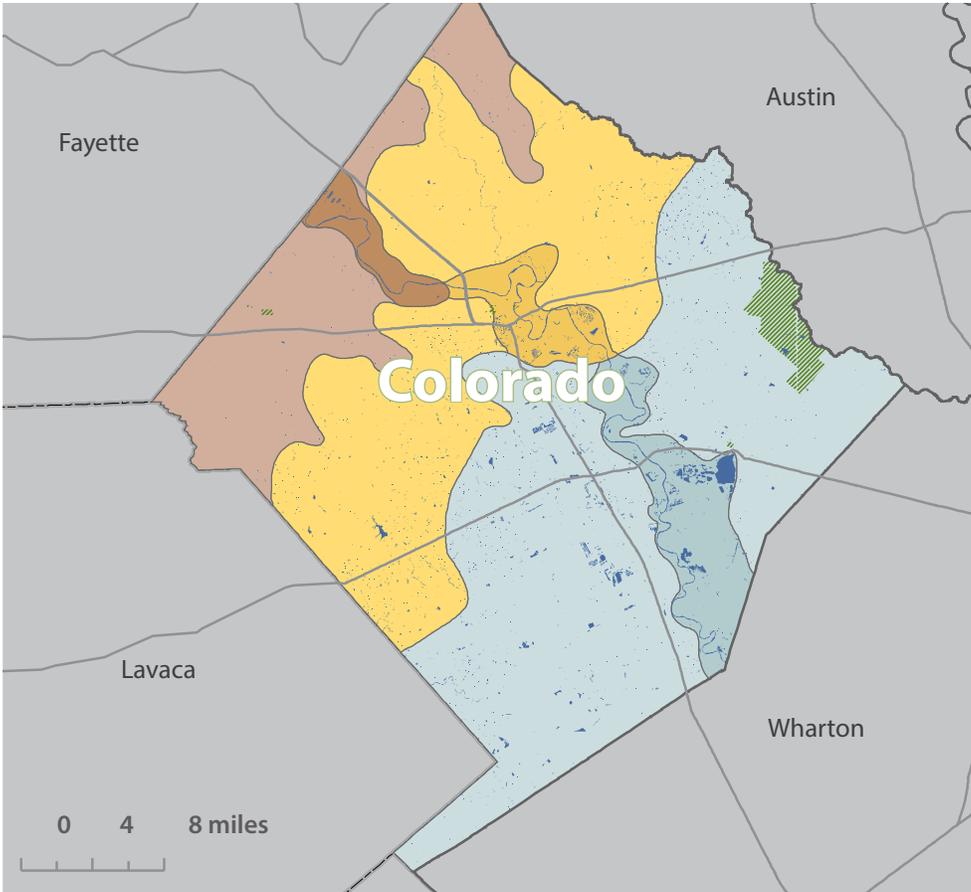


## Dentists Per Capita



## Doctors Per Capita



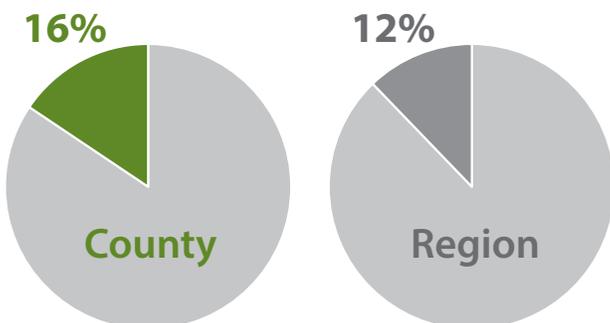


## Colorado County EcoRegions & Conservation Districts

- Other counties
- Northern Humid Gulf Coast Prairie
- Floodplains & Low Terraces (Western Gulf Coast Plains)
- Southern Post Oak Savanna
- Floodplains & Low Terraces (East Central Texas Plains)
- Southern Blackland/ Fayette Prairie
- Floodplains & Low Terraces (Texas Blackland Prairies)
- Conservation and Recreation Lands

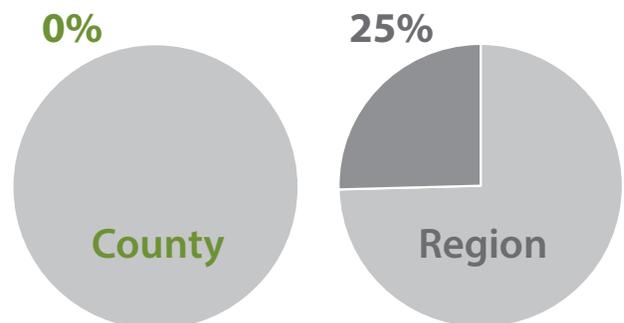
### Residents in 100-year Floodplain

A larger percentage of Colorado County residents live in a 100-year floodplain than the region.



### Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone

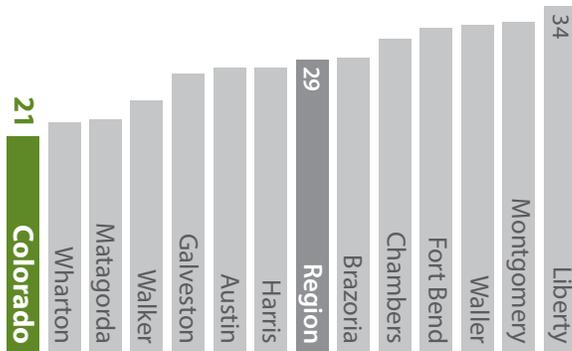
No Colorado County residents live in a hurricane evacuation zone, as opposed to 25% of the region's residents.



# TRANSPORTATION

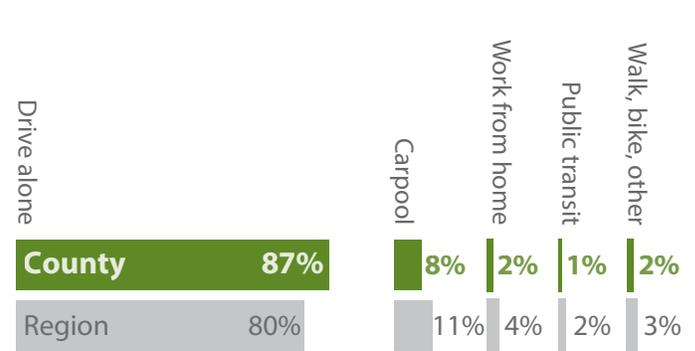
## Mean Commute to Work (minutes)

Colorado County workers have the shortest commute time to work in the region.



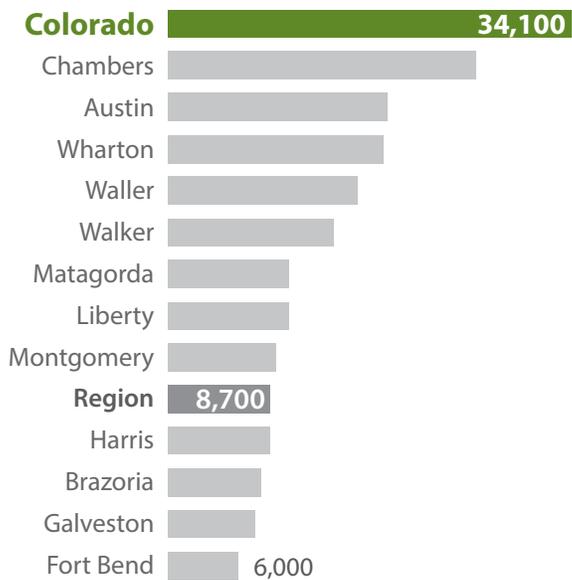
## Commute Mode to Work

A higher percentage of Colorado County workers drive to work compared to the region as a whole.



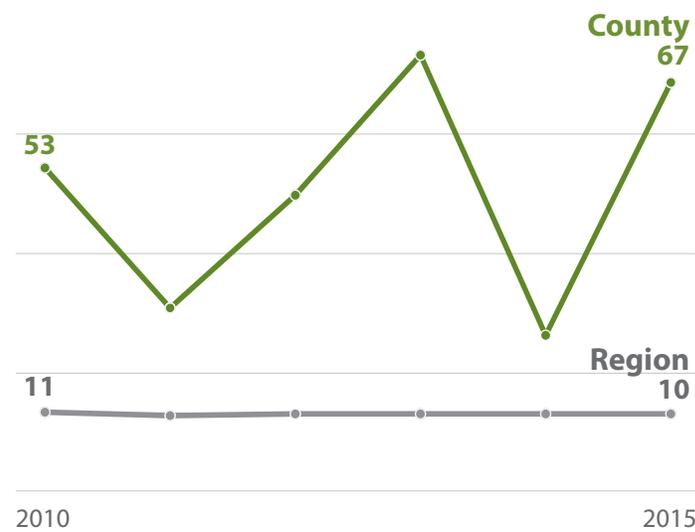
## Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person

Colorado County drivers travel more miles per year than any other drivers in the region.



## Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents

Colorado County has a higher rate of traffic fatalities than the rest of the region.



# SOURCES

## Overview

### Colorado County Boundaries (map)

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Population Growth Forecast

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Residents per Square Mile

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Age

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B01001

### Median Household Income

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S2503

### Poverty Rate

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701

### Race and Ethnicity

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B03002

## Housing & Land Use

### Colorado County Land Use (map)

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Building Permits Issued

U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permits Survey, 1990-2015

### Housing Tenure

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

### Housing Type

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

### Vacant Housing Units

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

### Living Costs

Center for Neighborhood Technology 2013 H+T® Index

### Median Home Value

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

### Housing Units Built Since 2000

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP04

## Economy & Workforce

### Top Industries by Percent of Overall Jobs

U.S. Census Bureau, 2002-2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program

### Major Employers in Colorado County

2016 Workforce Solutions, County Economic Profiles

### Employment & Education (16-19 Year Olds)

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B14005

### Unemployment Rate

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2006-2016

### Earnings of Residents

U.S. Census Bureau, 2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program

### Workers' Job & Home Destinations

U.S. Census Bureau, 2014, OnTheMap Application, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program

## Education & Health

### Educational Attainment

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S1501

### Local Schools

Texas Education Agency and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

### Class of 2015 Graduation Rate

Texas Education Agency, Four-Year Graduation and Dropout Data, Class of 2015

### Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table B20004

### Population without Health Insurance

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S2701

### Top Causes of Death

Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Health Statistics, 2013 County Health Facts Profiles

### Adult Obesity Rate

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013 County Data Indicators

### Dentists per Capita

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resources Files

### Doctors per Capita

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources & Services Administration, Area Health Resources Files

## Environment & Transportation

### Colorado County EcoRegions & Conservation Districts (map)

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Residents in 100-year Floodplain

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Residents in Hurricane Evacuation Zone

Houston-Galveston Area Council, 2017

### Mean Commute to Work (minutes)

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S0802

### Vehicle Miles Traveled per Person

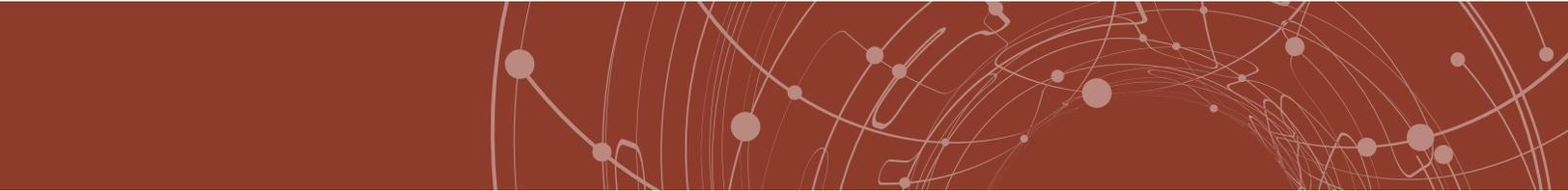
Texas Department of Transportation, 2015 Roadway Inventory

### Commute Mode to Work

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S0802

### Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Residents

Texas Department of Transportation, 2010-2015, Crash Records Information System



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[www.ourregion.org](http://www.ourregion.org)

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